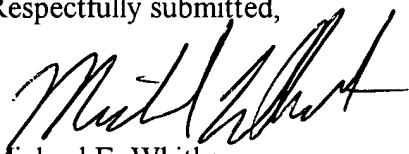


REMARKS

The Abstract has been amended to eliminate extraneous textual material. Figure 5 is the Figure the Applicant desires to have printed on the application. Claims 5-7 have been amended to eliminate multiple-dependency and to correct a grammatical error. The filing fee should be based on the absence of multiple dependent claims.

The undersigned requests that the filing fee be calculated in accordance with the claims as amended, and that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office proceed immediately to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP COPY OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

- 1 5. A gas opening/closing pin according to [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the
2 gas opening/closing pin is made of a metal.

- 1 6. A gas opening/closing pin according to [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the
2 outer periphery of the upper end portion of the gas opening/closing pin is
3 chamfered.[.]

- 1 7. A gas opening/closing pin according to [one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the
2 gas opening/closing pin is made of a nonmetal.

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